



Dec. 3, 2025

Three Badin football players sign early college commitments

Three Badin High School student-athletes were recognized as early college football signees during a special Signing Day celebration on Wednesday afternoon in the school's Mulcahey Gym.

Seniors Lemuel "Lem" Grayson, Andrew Lipp and Peter "Pete" Pendergest were eligible to sign "early" in advance of the Feb. 4 official Signing Day. Grayson will attend Grand Valley (Mich.) State University, Lipp is going to the University of Dayton, and Pendergest is headed for Bowling Green State University.

There was a synergy between the three as Lipp and Pendergest – both big offensive tackles at 6-foot-5, 265-pounds and 6-foot-6, 260-pounds, respectively – were doing a lot of blocking and Grayson – a 5-foot-8, 195-pound tailback – handled much of the running as Badin finished the season 10-2, earning a co-championship in the GCL Coed Division and reaching the Division III regional semifinals.

In fact, Grayson will graduate as the leading career rusher in the 60-year history of the Badin High School football program with 3,194 yards. He eclipsed the previous record of 3,175 yards, held by Cody Boxrucker '16.

As a senior, Grayson rushed for 1,115 yards and scored 21 touchdowns. Along with the career rushing record, he also holds the all-time Badin TD record with 54 trips to the endzone.

"These three young men were key members of a very successful senior class," Badin Athletic Director Geoff Melzer said. "We're certainly confident that they will be key members of their college football programs as well."

Over four seasons, the Class of 2026 contributed to 45 football wins, went 37-3 in the regular season, 19-1 with four GCL Coed Division titles, and were 8-4 in the post-season.

- **Lem Grayson** will play Division II college football at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich. Lem is the son of Laticia Pipkin of Middletown and Lemuel Grayson Sr. of Cincinnati and a graduate of Middletown Middle School. He plans to major in Business Administration.
- **Andrew Lipp** will play FCS Division I college football at the University of Dayton. He is the son of Mike and Becky Lipp of Harrison and a graduate of St. John the Baptist (Harrison). He plans to major in Sports Management and Entrepreneurship.
- **Pete Pendergest** will play FBS Division I college football at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. He is the son of Brian and Kathleen Pendergest of Hamilton and a graduate of St. Peter in Chains School. He is undecided on a major.

All three were 1st team all-GCL Coed Division selections. Grayson and Pendergest were 1st team Division III all-Southwest Ohio by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association, while Lipp was a second team selection.

Grayson, also a talented defensive back, had Ball State University and the University of Toledo on his list of potential colleges. Lipp and Pendergest both saw time in the defensive lines as well. Lipp had offers from the University of Akron, Gardner-Webb University and Youngstown State University. Pendergest had narrowed his offers down to the U.S. Naval Academy and Western Kentucky University.

Fourteen Badin student-athletes signed to play in college on the Nov. 12 Signing Day, and two more members of the Class of 2026 have committed to play in college – **Vinny Laugle** (baseball, Earlham College) and **Luke Hickey** (men's soccer, Marietta College). They will be recognized during Badin's winter date, Wednesday, Feb. 4. That will be followed by one additional Signing Day on Wednesday, April 29.

Contact: Dirk Q. Allen, (513) 869-4490 or Dallen@BadinHS.org